



THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

June 28, 1966

NSC REVIEW  
COMPLETED.

Dear Dick:

I appreciate very much your coming over yesterday to brief me on the situation in the Dominican Republic. You and your colleagues are doing everything possible to make the inauguration come off without incident.

I was particularly happy to have the opportunity to talk with you and your colleague Des Fitzgerald about the long-range political future in the Dominican Republic. It is encouraging to know that you share my concern about the political development of that island and about the desirability of appointing a high-level task force to follow the subject. I have written a letter to Assistant Secretary Lincoln Gordon on this subject, a copy of which is attached. I hope you will be hearing from the State Department soon on this matter.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

*Hubert H.*  
Hubert H. Humphrey

Mr. Richard Helms  
Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C.

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE 66-2894

June 28, 1966

Secret

The Honorable Lincoln Gordon  
Assistant Secretary of State for Interamerican Affairs  
Department of State  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Linc:

With the approaching inauguration of the new President of the Dominican Republic on July 1, I believe it is an appropriate time to give some thought to plans for the long-range political development of that troubled island. Recognizing the close relationship between depressed economic conditions and continued political instability, we have quite properly given considerable attention to the external economic and technical assistance that will be needed to assist the Dominicans in developing a viable economy. All these efforts will be in vain if the fragile political institutions that remain after the ravages of a violent revolution and after thirty years of Trujillo tyranny are left untended. Before our attention shifts to some other crisis, I believe it is advisable to develop a long-range program to assist the Dominican people in developing a viable political system.

While we have learned a great deal about economic development in the last two decades, our knowledge of political development remains primitive. This is partly because political developments remain more elusive, more volatile, less subject to influence by outside forces; and partly because we have not given the same

sustained

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sustained systematic attention to or invested the resources in political development that we have to economic development. Only recently have we begun to seriously focus attention on the development of political parties, the education of labor leaders on their role in building a free political system, to the organization of campesino movements, to the orientation of university groups and communications media along the lines of free democratic political development. True, in a quiet way we have not wholly ignored these matters. But we have up until now failed to mobilize fully the resources of the great universities, foundations, the labor unions, farm organizations and many other groups that could supplement the activities of governmental agencies in this field.

I know that you are familiar with some of the beginnings that have been made -- such as the work of the International Development Foundation and the ambitious research program now underway under the auspices of the Brookings Institution. In order to focus the vast resources of our society on the problem of political development in the Dominican Republic, I am wondering if it might not be advisable to consider appointing a small high-level task force which would be charged with the responsibility during the next several years for planning our assistance in the political field. This would of course require strict secrecy and could properly engage the attention of qualified people both inside the government and outside. You and your colleagues in the government are far better qualified than I to select people for such a task force. In addition to people in the government I have in mind such private individuals as Dick Scammon and John Roche, who already have extensive experience in the Dominican Republic in the field of political parties and electoral behavior, as well as men like Victor Reuther in the labor field.

An ideal

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An ideal Chairman of course would be the distinguished diplomat to whom all of us in this hemisphere owe so much, Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker. The overall leadership and initiative for a project such as this lies with the Department of State. The President has made it unequivocally clear that the State Department is the senior department in the US government in the direction of US foreign policy, and I hope that those of us who are interested in political development not only in the Dominican Republic but in all of the hemisphere can look to you for the leadership and initiative that is required in launching such a project. I am confident that with bold leadership and direction on your part, other appropriate agencies of the government will respond. I look forward to discussing this with you further on an early occasion and assure you here of my willingness to assist you in any way in this endeavor.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Hubert H. Humphrey

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